



# THE LEMONIER EXPRESS

## August 2003

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## Message From The Commander

*Greetings from the Horn of Africa.* We have been working hard out here to improve our lines of communication to you, the families and friends of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines. I know that most of you have not been receiving this monthly Family News Letter. I apologize we have not been more efficient. I firmly believe that informed loved ones are happier and more supportive...and when you are happier, we are happier. I am trying to use three models to get the word out to each of you:

- 1 - The CJTF-HOA Homepage Web Site (daily up-dates)
- 2 - My voice message that I record every Sunday AM (weekly up-dates)
- 3 - This Family News Letter (mailed out monthly)

In July, I mailed a letter to every spouse or parent of the service members who are stationed out here with me. In that letter I laid out my concept of using these three venues. Unfortunately I am told that most of you have still not received that letter either. As such, I am going to try and use this venue to communicate my concept again. Please understand that this is a concept and that your good ideas would be appreciated. If it is practical and affordable, I am interested in trying it if it improves the information flow.



### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

#### CJTF-HOA Info

- 1(866)360-3775
- 1(910)451-2222

#### American Red Cross

- 1(877)272-7337

#### TriCare Appointment/Advice

- 1(800)931-9501

#### CJTF-HOA Family Readiness Officer, Djibouti, Africa

##### - LT R. C. Francis

- 24 hrs Tel: 011-973-82-9257
- e-mail: [froafrica@hoa.centcom.mil](mailto:froafrica@hoa.centcom.mil)

#### Family Readiness Officer, Camp Lejeune, NC

##### - LT J. A. Polson

- Tel: (910) 451-8735
- e-mail: [frousa1@hoa.centcom.mil](mailto:frousa1@hoa.centcom.mil)

#### Family Readiness Staff Non-Commissioned Officer, Camp Lejeune, NC

##### -GySgt F. V. Munoz

- Tel: (910) 451-8719
- e-mail: [frousa2@hoa.centcom.mil](mailto:frousa2@hoa.centcom.mil)

I believe that the single best source of information is the computer homepage. You can access this web site from any on-line computer (to include at your local library) at [www.cjtfhoa.centcom.mil](http://www.cjtfhoa.centcom.mil). This web site has pictures, articles, and copies of both the weekly phone message and the monthly News Letter for you to access. I understand all of you do not have computers, so we will continue to mail out as well. I hope that we will soon have a separate sub-file for each individual unit out here to post their own pictures and comments (i.e. 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain, 3/6, BOS, Civil Affairs, etc). The intent is to allow each of you to see and hear more news from the specific office or unit your warrior works in.

In the future, the following schedule of information flow should help. Up-dates to the web site will be posted every morning here in theater. That means it should up to date when you get up on the East Coast (7 hours behind us). My weekly telephone voice mail (toll free 866-360-3775, Camp Lejeune area 451-2222) will be up-dated every Sunday morning. The Monthly Family News Letter will be poster to the CJTF-HOA Homepage Web site on the 8<sup>th</sup> of every month, and should be mailed out of Camp Lejeune, NC by the 12<sup>th</sup> of every month.

*Thank you for your support and your prayers. Separation is not easy for anyone, but it is the only way to deal with a terrorism problem that threatens our freedom and our children's future. I ask for your continued patience.*



Mastin M. Robeson  
Brigadier General, USMC



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### *From the Enduring Freedom Chapel*

The Chaplain Department has been busy during the last month working with both the 478<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs in two MEDCAPs as well as coordinating several other projects with local NGOs. We are thankful for the support of many organizations and individuals, such as USS Libertyhouse, Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society branch from Rota, Spain, and churches and individuals who have donated time and resources in order to help provide much needed clothing, toiletries, and toys to those who could really use them. This past month we distributed 78 boxes of clothing, toiletries and other articles to the local community. Additionally, we have been busy visiting work sites in Dikhil, As Eyl, Deudah, and Nagad and road projects. Many here at CJTF-HOA are working hard to improve the living standards of the locals.

While community projects interest us, our passion is the spiritual well-being of CJTF-HOA and their families back home. We are working to create a spiritual climate whereby we can experience God. Our Camp chaplain, Chaplain Chuck Roots, who oversees the chapel worship program, is an inspiration as he works daily to provide opportunities for us to reach out to the community through visits to help out at various orphanages.

I would like to gleaned from the you develop an attitude pleasing to God.

Can you an "attitude of gratitude?" emotions to vary while deployed, you can have It's all a matter of discovered the "secret" of Philippians 4:4-20. Your developed by nurturing your relationship with principles found in this First and contentment is found by all of our circumstances. about all of our rejoice our way through we can't be down for long.

challenging events of life produces our strength and character. It's easy to want to look for quick fixes in order to avoid difficulties, but our moral and spiritual muscles would grow weak if they were not exercised.

Second, we are told to **relax**. When we physically, emotionally, and spiritually relax, we will develop a gentle nature. How much of our life circumstances do we actually control? By recognizing our dependence on God, we can relax. We can do this by spending some quiet time by ourselves, reading Scriptures and other inspiring books, attending a local house of worship, praying, and being with quality friends. Relaxing does not always come naturally and must become a part of our routine in order to be effective. This passage also tells us that an active prayer life—constantly giving our concerns over to God through petitions and thanksgiving—releases us from anxiety.

Third, we are told to **receive**. That's right—an attitude of gratitude and freedom from constant anxiety is a blessing, a gift from God. While God freely wants us to have this freedom, he wants us to cooperate with Him by exercising our "spiritual muscles." Our rejoicing in Him through all circumstances, our relaxing before Him through prayer gives us our gentle disposition. Cooperating with the grace of God, we receive the blessing of peace—a peace that produces a real strength that will amaze everyone.

Fourth, we are told how to **reflect** on our experiences. Random thoughts that dwell on negative experiences are destructive. While we can't keep negative thoughts from coming to mind, the quality of our life dramatically increases when we choose to dwell on the positive. Not to choose is to loose. Do our thoughts control us or do we control our thoughts? By the grace of God, we can focus our attention on thoughts that are life enhancing. Reflecting on the positive regardless of our environment or circumstances produces radical transformation. Others can't do it for us, but it can be done along with others. Start hanging around people with a positive outlook and see how others are transformed by their example. Begin today to live life through the eyes of grace and faith.

Fifth, form new habits by constantly **reviewing** what God is doing in your life. By reviewing, we move from head knowledge to a real working knowledge that sees results. Find experienced spiritual mentors and notice how they respond to life's crises. While recognizing that each one of us is unique and special, emulate how these people respond to the grace of God and how they grow in mercy. "Just do it" is not only a neat advertising slogan, but is a scriptural truth for the process of spiritual transformation.

As we follow these principles, by the grace of God we will experience **renewal**. Not shortcuts, "fast food" easy answers, or avoidance—but real and lasting transformation. Whatever circumstances we find ourselves in we can have true and lasting contentment, knowing that God will supply all of our needs as we live a life of faith. Remember, God's encouragement to us does not come from the marketing department at Hallmark. God stands by His word. Let's stand with Him.



share some keen insights Scriptures, which will help and spiritual strength

honestly say that you have While it is normal for your loved one is victory in your private life. perspective. I have a positive outlook found in "attitude of gratitude" is your spiritual nature and God. Let's look at several passage. foremost, the secret of **rejoicing in the Lord** in We don't have to be happy circumstances, but we can them. If our focus is up, Going through the



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### **Base Exchange Grand Opening**

Story by Sgt. Bradley Shaver and photos by Cpl. Eric Ely

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service held a grand opening of their latest Base Exchange here, Saturday. A crowd of Camp Lemonnier personnel gathered in front of the new facility, waiting for the doors to open to see what was in store for them.

“We truly believe in our motto, ‘we go where you go’ and we are one step behind you,” said Elizabeth Sandoe, AAFES area manager.

From start to finish, it took one month for the building to be brought up from ground level.

Attached to the Base Exchange is a barber and beauty shop, a uniform alterations store and Djiboutian gift shop.

Sandoe said this is her fifth visit to Djibouti and every time she comes there is a new improvement to the camp.

“I am thrilled that AAFES is apart of the improvement of quality of life here – it’s quickly moving up,” said Sandoe. “I am very thankful for the people who had the foresight to plan and construct this building, who helped supervise over it, and am thankful for those who are here to take care of our valued customers.”

After the base chaplain, Navy Cmdr. Charles Roots, blessed the new building, Marine Col. Michael Pannell, commanding officer of Command Logistics Element, Marine Central Command, said on behalf of Camp Lemonnier, he would like to thank AAFES, Brown-and-Root and especially the Djiboutian workers who made this happen by building this nice facility by hand.

“A lot of hard work went into this and we thank everybody for it,” said Pannell. “When you’re in an austere expeditionary environment as we are here, having something like this is tremendous for troop morale and welfare.

The Base Exchange is currently open everyday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Col. Michael Pannell and AAFES staff- members cut the ribbon during the grand opening of the new Base Exchange, Saturday, July 26, 2003.

### ***Camp Lemonier Happenings***

**July 4** - The major camp-wide event of the month was our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, which included a Brown and Root supported BBQ at the Cantina, preceded by a bazaar of local vendors selling their goods, native costumes and dances, a camel ride, volleyball and arm wrestling tournaments. The grand finale of the day was an amazing demonstration of dance choreography and singing.

**July 15** - The commanding officer of Command Logistics Element, Marine Central Command, Col. Mario LaPaix turned over command to Col. Michael R. Pannell. This marked a change in leadership, as well as the change of forces from the CLE to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force.



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### **UNIT UPDATE**

#### **10<sup>th</sup> MOUNTAIN DIVISION**

C Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division conducted the following training during the month of July:

- Known Distance ranges, both in Djibouti and Ethiopia
- Reflexive fire ranges, both in Djibouti and Ethiopia
- AK-47 range for familiarization of the weapon system
- Familiarization ranges for Shotguns and 9mm Pistols
- External Sling Load training with Heavy Marine Helicopter Company (HMH-461) both day and night iterations to help certify them.
- Our Mortar platoon is currently undergoing training on the mortar ballistic computer and the plotting board to further their proficiency.

They also conducted the following missions:

- Currently conducting Military to Military training in Hurso, Ethiopia.
- Security Mission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

#### **COMMAND LOGISTICS ELEMENT**

The commanding officer of Command Logistics Element, Marine Central Command, Col. Mario LaPaix turned over command July 15 to Col. Michael R. Pannell. This marked a change in leadership, as well as the change of forces from the CLE to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force.

A week after the change of command, approximately 63 Marines and Sailors from II MEF and MARFORLANT arrived at Camp Lemonier on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July to replace the current active duty and reserve forces that had been in country since the build up of the Camp. The newly arrived Marines and Sailors will be taking over the major billets within the CLE (i.e. S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4, S-6, etc...).

*Grand Opening* - Colonel M. R. Pannell, cut the ribbon that officially opened the AAFES Exchange on the July 26.

#### **478<sup>TH</sup> CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION**

C Company, 478<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion (SO) conducted off-road ATV Training 14 July.

They also conducted the following missions:

- MED/DENT/VETCAP on July 19 at As Ela, Djibouti. The C Co., 478<sup>th</sup> CA Bn.'s Civic Action Team along with US Air Force, US Navy, Djiboutian, French and German Military medical personnel were able to treat 150 patients.
- A Civil Affairs team traveled to the north of Djibouti July 7 to assess the humanitarian needs of the residents and identified several potential project sites, such as the school in Obock and the Hospital in Tadjoura.
- MEDCAP on 05 July at Damerjog, Djibouti. The C Co., 478<sup>th</sup> CA Bn.'s Civic Action Team along with US Air Force and US Navy medical personnel was able to treat more than 390 patients.
- A Civil Affairs team from the 478<sup>th</sup> CA BN has been deployed to Hurso, Ethiopia and is conducting Civil Military Operations in the eastern portion of Ethiopia. The team has completed numerous assessments including a water distribution facility, civilian supply sources, schools and clinics in the Dire Dawa and Hurso area. On 7 July the team conducted an assessment of the Dil Chora Hospital in Hurso, Ethiopia on 7 July.

#### **463<sup>rd</sup> ENGINEERS**

The 463<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Detachment has already begun to leave their fit footprint in the sands of CJTF-HOA's Operations since their arrival here in late June. They jumped feet first into clearing obstructions from the Djiboutian beaches so the Marines and Sailors of the 26<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit would have a clear landing for their training in Djibouti.

They are also involved in the ongoing work to the rebuilding of Hol-Hol Road, which is the only route leading to southwestern Djibouti's transportation hub of Hol-Hol.

#### **CJTF-HOA ENGINEERS**

The Engineer's of CJTF-HOA has continued to conduct Civil-Military Operation within Djibouti. These operations include:

- Continues repairs to a school in As Eyl.
- Continues work on Dikhil Hospital.

#### **916<sup>th</sup> WELL DRILLING DETACH**

The 916<sup>th</sup> Well Drilling Detachment has recently completed their first well in Dikhil, bringing a needed water source to the community. Most of the community's wells are surface wells that dry up during droughts.





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### ***Promotions***

#### **C Co., 10 Mountain Division**

##### *From Corporal to Sergeant:*

-SGT Blaz, John  
-SGT Ramsey, Matthew



##### *From Private First Class to Specialist:*

-SPC Hedensten, Joshua  
-SPC Burch, Shawn



##### *From Private to Private First Class:*

-PFC Smith, Steven  
-PFC Canann, Joseph  
-PFC Krasnicki, Rafal  
-PFC Brisson, Jeremy



#### **C Co., 478<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Bn**

##### *From Sergeant First Class to Master Sergeant:*

-MSG Eileen Pentzke



#### **CJTF-HOA**

##### *From Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel:*

-Col. Thomas Duhs



##### *From Lance Corporal to Corporal:*

-Cpl. Donny Milton  
-Cpl. Jason Edward Hanbury



##### *From Private First Class to Lance Corporal:*

-LCpl. Lucas Embry



#### **463<sup>rd</sup> Engineers Detachment**

##### *From Private First Class to Specialist:*

-SPC Hurst



### ***Awards and Recognition***

#### **Command Logistics Element**

CLE's commanding officer Col. Mario LaPaix was honored by Djibouti's National Police Force July 9, 2003. In recognition of his accomplishments, the police force named their fitness facility after him.

#### **HMH – 461**

HMH-461 had a number of note worthy awards. Sgt Robert L. Baker earned his Aircrew Wings 18 July 2003. While Cpl. Patrick J. McGillvray was awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and Cpl. Jose A. Ramirez received a Certificate of Commendation on 8 July 03.

- HMH-461's NCO of the Quarter was Cpl Patrick J. McGillvray.
- HMH-461's Marine of the Quarter was LCpl. Jason L. Gibson.

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division**

10<sup>th</sup> Mountain had two note worthy awards in July.

- Sgt Robert Bartosh was the NCO(Army) of the Month for Camp Lemonier.
- PFC Jamie Lynn was the Service Member(Army) of the Month for Camp Lemonier.

### ***New Arrivals***

#### **C Co., 10 Mountain Division**

Congratulations to SGT Price and his wife Jocelyn on the birth of a healthy baby boy, Gabriel; in Watertown, NY on 11 June 03.

#### **463<sup>rd</sup> Engineers Detachment**

Congratulations to SSG Singler and his wife Amy on the birth of a healthy baby boy in July.



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### ***Welcome Aboard Camp Lemonier!***

#### **CJTF-HOA**

PFC. Geoffrey L. Peltier – USA  
Pfc. Richard Reyes - USMC

LCpl. Nicholas C. Hall – USMC  
LCpl. Brandon A. Martinez – USMC  
LCpl. Sonephet Souvanna – USMC  
LCpl. Israel VillegasSandoval – USMC

Cpl. Venoy V. Mattamana – USMC  
SrA. Jeremy E. Sheehan – USAF  
Cpl. Roger E. Spotts – USMC  
Cpl. Timothy L. Docherty – USMC  
Cpl. Gordon A. Rouse – USMC

Sgt. Charles A. Wolf – USMC  
SSgt. Antonio M. Tamayo – USAF  
SSgt. Gerald S. Lowry – USAF  
Sgt. Charles R. Hatfield – USMC  
SSgt. Amanda L. Wofford – USAF  
SSgt. Robert E. Barrowman – USAF  
Sgt. Nicholas J. Hidy – USMC  
Sgt. Dwane A. Johnson - USMC

PO1 James R. Knight – USN  
SSgt. James A. Swanson – USMC  
SSG Michael D. Knight – USAR  
SSgt. Derrick Z. Freeman – USMC  
SSgt. Warren Jones – USMC

CPO Daniel B. Mumbach – USN  
SFC Victor M. Velazquez – USA  
GySgt. Frank R. Bellini – USMCR  
GySgt. Alexander D. Shade – USMC

MSgt. James K. Henderson – USMC  
MSgt. Robert J. Tobin – USMC

WO1 Jose J. Santos – USMC

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jason D. Franz – USMC

Capt. Kenneth W. Casais – USMCR  
Capt. Brandon M. Bolling – USMC  
Francisco R. Gonzales – USAF  
Capt. Mike Hoffman – USMC  
Capt. Jim Bartell - USMC

Maj. Jon D. Duke – USMC  
Maj. Michael W. Sauter – USAF  
Maj. Matthew W. Morgan – USMC

Lt.Col. William R. Watson – USMC  
Lt.Col. Mark J. Bourdon – USMCR  
Jeffrey L. Endicott – USMCR  
Lt. Col. Mark Wriggle - USMC

Col. Brooks R. Brewington – USMC

Efrem Kidane – Enavy

GS11 Timothy J. Metzler

Pfc. Frank R. Diolosa – USMC

LCpl. Seth E. Collins – USMC  
LCpl. Shawn C. Putnam – USMC  
LCpl. James T. Todd – USMC

Cpl. Joseph R. Brinck – USMC  
Cpl. Eric C. Ely – USMC  
Cpl. Charlie L. Rattley – USMCR  
Cpl. Jacob K. Laskowski – USMC  
PO3 Farouq H. Gazali – USN

Sgt. Robert C. LaBonty – USMC  
SSgt. Carey E. Dvorak II – USAF  
SSgt. Sandra M. Hansen – USAF  
Sgt. Brian E. Koehn – USMC  
Sgt. Shawn W. Butcher – USMC  
Sgt. Christopher L. Drane – USMC  
Sgt. Benedict A. Solis – USMC

SSgt. Robert C. Richards – USMC  
SSG Dawn L. White – USAR  
SSgt. Travis L. Hiller – USMC  
SSgt. Keevin D. Murray – USMC  
Tech. Sgt. Richard J Smith – USAF

GySgt. Darrell T. Combs – USMC  
GySgt. Jerry A. Austin – USMC  
MSgt. David R. Sartin – USAF

MSG Doyle W. Krouskop – USAR  
MSgt. Robert T. Hogan – USMC

1LT. Steven Harington - USA

Lt. Rachel A. Spollen – USN  
Capt. Giorgio A. Cabrera – USAF Capt.  
Capt. Carlos E. Carballo – USAF  
Capt. Timothy S. Knechel – USMC

Maj. Phillip A. Millerd – USMCR  
MAJ Edmund M. Glabus - USAR  
Maj. Mike Delll'Amico - USMC

Lt.Col. Christopher J. Bain - USAF  
Lt.Col. Jerard A. Brewer – USMCR Lt.Col.  
Lt. Col. Steve Hoyle – USMC

Col. Steve Davis - USMC

### ***Fare Thee Well!***

#### **CJTF-HOA**

LCpl. Nicholas A. Crosby – USMC  
LCpl. Christopher W Franklin – USMC  
LCpl. Seneca T. Washington – USMC  
LCpl. Elias Garcia - USMC

Cpl. Lee A. Boyce – USMC  
Cpl. Casey D. Shockley – USMC  
Cpl. Joneric A. Bragg – USMC  
Cpl. Bradley A. Prewitt – USMC  
Cpl. Arturo Fabela – USMC  
Cpl. John T. King – USMC  
Cpl. Jacob E. Lucko – USMC  
Cpl. Ryan B. Warren - USMC

SSgt. Ronald M. Sarte – USAF  
Sgt. Christopher M. Lake – USMC  
Sgt. John-Joshua Stawder – USMC  
Sgt. Gregory W. Jones – USMC  
Sgt. Michael R. Schmidtkofer - USMC  
SSgt. Howard D. Noe – USAF

Tech Sgt. Jennifer Bufford – USAF  
SSgt. Larry W. Gulick – USMC  
SSgt. Victor E. Noe – USMC

GySgt. Steven F. Rhoads – USMC  
GySgt. Michael T. Oliver – USMC  
GySgt. Larry Pitts - USMC

MSgt. Geoffrey R. Nace – USMC

MGySgt. Jefferson B. Corbett – USMC  
MGySgt. Jeffrey W. Baker - USMC

WO5 Terry L. Walker – USMC

1LT Leona R. Schuh – USA  
1LT Damon Dalby - USA

CPT John S. De Jesus – USA  
LT Donovan Oubre – USN  
CPT John P. Denver – USA  
Capt. Sonya K. Kauffman – USMC

Maj. Stephen A. Cox – USMC  
Maj. David P. Casey – USMC  
Maj. William B. Robey – USMC  
Maj. Jacques Pelletier - USMC

Lt. Col. Scott B. Jack – USMC  
Lt. Col. Clarke D. Henderson – USMC  
Lt. Col. Michael S. Palermo, Jr. – USMC  
Lt. Col. David A. Tagg – USMC  
Lt. Col. Peter H. Devlin – USMC  
Lt. Col. Doug Henderson - USMC

Col. Mark S. Davis – USMC  
Col. Joel P. Kane – USMC  
Col. Thomas Duhs – USMCR  
Col. Richard M. Lake - USMC

GS 13 Scott W. Utley